



ANERA News

in this issue...

- Don't Forget Gaza
- ANERA by the Numbers
- ANERA's Community Responds
- Gaza Photographs
- For Mother's Day

Don't Forget Gaza ■■■■

“**W**e didn't come to an end of our difficulties. Our difficulties have just started. We have tons of aid coming in every day, but we have so many problems that need fixing. In every family, you have either lost a house or a parent or brother or sister or someone has lost a limb. Every family in Gaza has lost something.”

Mona Abu Ramadan, Manager of the Milk for Preschoolers program in Gaza, spoke these words during a phone meeting between ANERA's Gaza staff and headquarters after the bombing stopped.

In that meeting, Gaza staff reported that schools are back in session, non-profits have reopened and the rubble is cleaned off the streets. But life is far from normal.

The level of physical destruction is enormous – you cannot go anywhere without seeing leveled buildings, electrical lines down and water pipes severed. The stench of sewage fills the air. Countless families are displaced and living in tents or crowded together into a single family's home.

(continued on page 3)

ANERA
AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

Since 1968 منذ ١٩٦٨

ANERA News

The ANERA newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to providing development, health, education and employment programs to Palestinian communities and impoverished families throughout the Middle East.

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COVER PHOTO: More than 4,000 homes, 68 government buildings and 31 non-governmental organization offices were either totally destroyed or partially damaged during 22 days of fighting in Gaza.

by the Numbers

GAZA AFTER THE BOMBING

Percentage of Gaza's population depending on food aid: **90%**

Percentage of health facilities, assessed by the World Health Organization, damaged or destroyed during the bombing: **48%**

Average number of trucks allowed into Gaza every day: **120**

Minimum number of trucks necessary to meet Gaza's needs: **500**

Number of families depending directly on farming, herding and fishing who suffered significant damage to their livelihoods: **13,000**

Value in dollars of in-kind health care donations ANERA distributed to Gaza clinics and hospitals since January 22, 2009: **\$4 million**

Value in dollars of food packets ANERA delivered to Gaza families since January 21, 2009: **\$1.46 million**

Number of preschoolers receiving a nutrient-fortified snack of milk and biscuits from ANERA each school day: **25,200**

ANERA's Community Responds

ANERA's donor community has responded to the devastating situation in Gaza with a tremendous outpouring of support and concern.

Students of all ages in nearly a dozen states organized fundraisers. Mosques, Islamic centers, churches and other community organizations in states throughout the U.S. circulated ANERA materials and hosted fundraising events, ranging from music and poetry evenings to walkathons.

Organizations have also come forward to help, hosting events that highlight ANERA's work, featuring us on their websites, and forwarding ANERA updates about Gaza to their contact lists. Numerous blogs have promoted ANERA as a safe and trustworthy steward of funds by linking to our Gaza donate pages. Countless individuals have forwarded ANERA emails and webpage links to their friends and family who care.

Our staff and partners in Gaza continue to report back about the magnitude of the work we have ahead of us. So much of their recovery depends on the goodwill and generosity of the world outside of Gaza – and it lifts their spirits to know they are not forgotten and that we are working hard for them. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

To get involved, visit www.anera.org/helpgaza.



Don't Forget Gaza

(continued from page 1)

On a recent trip to Gaza, ANERA President Bill Corcoran described the damage he saw in the northern region: "Municipal water tanks, commercial radio stations and residences were destroyed. The worst I saw was Salatin, which immediately reminded me of Banda Aceh and its tsunami devastation in 2004. Once beautiful middle-class homes lay on the ground as flattened ruins. These modern cement structures were leveled without exception. Some families camped next to them in tents. Now, you can see for miles with no homes obstructing your view."

The psychological and emotional toll of the fighting is incalculable. On top of grief over losses, Gazans are feeling isolated from and forgotten by the world outside of their confining borders. Many approached Bill, assuring him of the importance of ANERA's work and saying, "Don't let people forget Gaza."

On visits to schools participating in ANERA's Milk for Preschoolers program, staff see ceilings caved in, windows blown out, major cracks in walls and toys buried in rubble. Many schools are cold and have no running water. Five-year-olds have lost the ability to laugh and be spontaneous. When asked why they come to school, they say they come to get their milk and biscuit.

It is because preschoolers can depend on ANERA to provide them with their daily snack that many overcome their fears and summon the courage to leave their homes and come to school every day.

At this critical time of rebuilding, ANERA's response and long-time presence in Gaza send the message that those who are suffering can depend on us for support and relief.

We send the message that we never forget Gaza.

PHOTOS: Since the bombing in Gaza began on December 27, many thousands of people have lost their homes and live in tents, buildings lie in ruins, lines for humanitarian aid are everywhere and children are suffering from terrible psychosocial wounds.

The bombing has stopped. The suffering continues. ANERA remains committed to Gaza.



90% of people in Gaza rely on food aid and thousands are homeless, though the total number remains unknown.



ANERA is distributing \$1.4 million worth of food to families in Rafah, Khan Younis and Gaza City.



Factories and small businesses were destroyed and families have lost their livelihoods.



ANERA is rebuilding livelihoods. One project is distributing chickens to families for breeding and egg harvesting.



The children's ward in Al Quds Hospital was destroyed.



ANERA is distributing \$4 million worth of medicines and other health care supplies to clinics and hospitals throughout Gaza.



Food insecurity and malnutrition in Gaza have been a problem for years. Now it is worse than ever.



ANERA is providing daily milk and biscuits, enriched with essential vitamins, to 25,200 preschoolers.



Despite the massive need for reconstruction, no building materials are being allowed to cross into Gaza.



Using materials available inside of Gaza, ANERA has begun reconnecting water systems. This one is in Jabalia.

For Mother's Day ■■■■

A MOTHER'S PEACE OF MIND

A mother has peace of mind

- ...when she knows she has a clean, safe place to give birth.
- ...when she knows her child will have food to eat.
- ...when she knows her child will have good health care.
- ...when she knows her child is getting a good education.
- ...when she knows her child has a good home.

At a time of year when we think about the importance of mothers and all they do, ANERA continues to work, as always, towards offering mothers that greatest of gifts: peace of mind that her child will be able to live a healthy, fulfilling life.

Many of ANERA's programs touch on mothers' ambitions for their children.

We build new schools and add classrooms to others. We connect families to clean water systems. We rehabilitate clinics and hospitals so they reach the highest standards of service. We distribute medicines, medical equipment, school supplies, hygiene kits and other items. We provide scholarship support to schools that reach thousands of children, many with special needs. We give psychosocial support to children coping with traumatic events. We teach about the importance of breastfeeding and eating a healthy diet. We give small loans that allow entrepreneurs to start or improve businesses.

With your support, we are able to offer struggling mothers a little peace of mind.



Promoting healthy living



Distributing vital medicines



Providing scholarship support



Jenin Hospital delivery room – BEFORE

Renovating hospitals and schools



AFTER

in honor of **MOM**



Give a gift to ANERA
in honor or in memory
of your mother.

Visit “Ways to Give”
at www.anera.org.



Leave a legacy.

Your legacy – and the future of thousands of families who need your help – will be secure.

You can help, even now.

Your bequest gift means ANERA will be here tomorrow, so people throughout the Middle East may live with the dignity we all deserve. A portion of bequests is contributed to ANERA’s endowment.

For more information about making a gift from your estate, please e-mail Nancy Nye (nnye@anera.org) or Mary Kate Chaath (mkchaath@anera.org), or call 202-842-2766.

Save the date!

ANERA’s 2009 Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

when: Friday evening, October 2

where: Capital Hilton
1001 16th Street NW
Washington, DC

Reservations for the event can be made on ANERA’s website after July 1.



from the desk of
Bill Corcoran, President

Dear Friend of ANERA:

I was in Gaza in February. At the end of the trip, at the Israeli checkpoint, I waited two hours for approval to leave. It gave me time to reflect on the fact that everything I saw in Gaza was witnessed through the eyes of a visitor, and everyone I visited in Gaza is not allowed to leave.

As I walked through neighborhoods, clinics, preschools and visited the homes of staff and friends in Gaza, I wanted the eyes of the world to be seeing what I saw. I can't help but feel that if more people saw what I saw, it would bring more support, more aid and more comfort to suffering people.

Our committed ANERA community does more than simply send support. We're responsible for reminding the rest of the world that people in Gaza are still suffering, even if it isn't in the news every day.

Thank you for all you do,

Bill Corcoran

ANERA

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Don't Forget Gaza